

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 11-13 are pending in the application. No amendment is made in this Response. It is believe that this Response is fully responsive to the Office action dated March 9, 2006.

Claims 1 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda (JP 2000108289) in view of Anderson and Shimizu. (Office action paragraph no. 2)

The rejection of claims 1 and 11-13 is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Applicant again submits that none of the references nor any combination of the references discloses that an aqueous dry laminate adhesive composition is used for the lamination of the artificial leather, and the adhesive composition comprises a colorant (D) which is a water-dispersible pigment in which a pigment's surface is coated with a water-dispersible resin.

In paragraph no. 7 of the Office action, the Examiner addresses Applicant's arguments from the Amendment of February 6, 2006. In particular, the Examiner addresses the remarks at the bottom of page 9 of the Amendment, that Anderson merely describes that a colorant is added to the top surface layer, not to the adhesive.

The Examiner states: "He [Anderson] discloses having all three layers of the laminate the same color." The Examiner appears to be referring to the disclosure in column 9, lines 44 to 50, that:

"... the specifically colored, inert inorganic pigment is incorporated in the dispersion from which the outer surface skin coating is to be cast and in the adhesive dispersion to be applied over it. ..."

However, Anderson does not disclose that the adhesive composition comprises a colorant

(D) which is “a water-dispersible pigment in which a pigment’s surface is coated with a water-dispersible resin,” as recited in the present claims. In fact, Anderson discloses that “the specifically colored, **inert** inorganic pigment” (emphasis added) is used as a pigment. A surface coating with a water-dispersible resin would not result in an “inert” inorganic pigment. Therefore, it would appear that Anderson, in fact, **teaches away** from the use of an inorganic pigment whose surface is coated with a water-dispersible resin.

In the Office action, the Examiner also refers to Applicant's argument that the Shimizu reference is not related to artificial leather (page 10 of the last Amendment). The Examiner states that Shimizu “is directed to pigmented polyurethane water dispersed binders, which is similar to this application.” However, Applicant notes that Applicant's argument that Shimizu is not related to artificial leather was presented as an argument **against the motivation to combine Shimizu with Anderson or Takeda**. The statement that Shimizu is “similar to this application” **does not provide a proper motivation** for combination with Takeda, and is only a hindsight reference to the present application.

Shimizu is an invention relating to **a heat sensitive composition, an original plate using the same for lithographic printing plate, and a process for preparing printing plate**. Although the Examiner states that carbon black grafted with a polyurethane resin having a carboxyl group is disclosed in column 6, lines 39 to 44, the carbon black used in Shimizu is used as a substance which absorbs light and generates heat. The generated heat is used for the denaturation of resin particles which provide image formation (the type of the denaturation is according to whether the type of

composition is negative or positive). After exposure to light is conducted, an exposed portion or an unexposed portion of the original plate is deleted by development to provide a printing plate. The obtained printing plate is used for printing a picture or the like with an ink.

That is, Shimizu merely uses carbon black to absorb light and generate heat. The carbon black in Shimizu is not used as a **colorant**; a colorless substance might have served Shimizu's purpose. A colorant is used to impart color to the final product.

Furthermore, a substrate of a typical lithographic printing plate is metal, resin, or the like, and such substrates are much harder than fiber sheets such as knit and woven cloth, or nonwoven fabric cloth, which are required to have flexibility. The disclosure of Shimizu is not applicable to the synthetic leather of Takeda.

In this regard, Applicant notes that the International Patent Classification (IPC) of Shimizu is GO3F 7/09; GO3F 7/115; GO3C 1/77, different from the classification of Takeda. These are in different arts, and there is no motivation to combine these references.

Summary of Points Regarding the combination of Takeda, Shimizu and Anderson:

Takeda discloses an aqueous dry laminate adhesive. However, since Shimizu is unrelated art, and Anderson does not disclose pigment that is surface treated as described above, Applicant submits that the references cannot be combined to achieve the present claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not provided a motivation to modify the references to include a colorant, such as a pigment that is treated as in the present claims. Applicant submits that there is no suggestion or motivation for this in the general art, since a general

adhesive layer is provided at a hidden portion and **cannot be seen** from the surface side of the product. That is why in the general art, the colorant is included in a resin composition which provides a surface layer, this being considered the most effective way to provide color to the product.

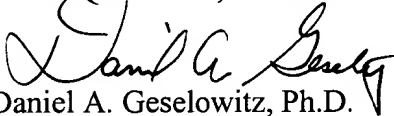
Claims 1 and 11-13 are therefore not obvious over Takeda (JP 2000108289), Anderson and Shimizu, taken separately or in combination.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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